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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Testimony for February 18th, 2010
Opposing H5158 "An Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms"

Chairwoman Stillman and Chairman Dargan, members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:
My name is Leonard Benedetto. I am from Stratford and I am the Vice President of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League Inc. I am testifying in opposition to H5158 "An Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms".

Section 10 would eliminate private sales of long guns (rifles and shotguns) as has been a commonly accepted practice among sportsmen, target shooters, hunters, collectors, friends and family members handing them down through generations

Thousands of rifles and shotguns have been privately transferred in such a manner and it has rarely been an issue of concern for Public Safety. Existing long guns transferred on an individual basis prior to the enactment of this legislation would be unaffected and can theoretically continue to be transferred with no paperwork.

Section 10 would require the registration of long guns along with an authorization for the sale or transfer as is currently done for handguns. Last October the State Police demonstrated they cannot handle the volume and upkeep of the DPS-C-3 forms for handguns. Which is evident by the mailing of 3125 "Action Letters" they sent out on October 7, 2009 asking people that had sold firearms legally and had properly filed their paperwork to REFILE the paperwork again. This Bill would require the State Police to handle more registration work? The costs of this are not justifiable in the State budget. Any effort to enhance Public Safety would be much better served by allocating resources toward the thousands of outstanding, criminal arrest warrants that exist in the State.

What Public Safety Value is gained by adding an additional level of registration for long guns?
Unless existing long guns come back into the "system" by becoming re-sold at retail again, there is no way to enforce this section.

Last year I purchased a USED .22 rifle at retail. This particular rifle was manufactured before 1968. Because of this there is no serial number on it. Since I did buy it at retail, all the proper paperwork was filled out and filed. This paperwork is useless since no serial number could be put on the paperwork. There were thousands of these guns made for many years, and sold at Sears stores across the country. This long gun is not a special case. Many older guns have no serialization on them.

In addition to Section 10, I am also opposed to Sec. 11 concerning Gun Shows and the 30-day notification process to both DPS and the local Chief of police for the town where the gun show is to be held. Again, what purpose is served by creating additional administrative burdens on gun show operators and the State? No improvement of Public Safety is achieved through this measure, either.
I urge the rejection of H5158 unless or until objectionable language in the above sections is removed.

Thank you,

Leonard Benedetto
Vice President
Connecticut Citizens
Defense League Inc.

**Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.**

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15